

Submitter: Emily Horton

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB4124

Arts and culture in the Portland is a driving force of foot traffic, in downtown Portland, and supports diverse working artists on stage, back stage, front of house, and management. Supporting arts companies creates more living wage professional jobs, some of them union represented. Thanks to my union, and these living wage jobs in the arts, I have consistent health insurance for the first time, and a retirement account also for the first time, starting at the age of 40. Because of this union work in the arts I had health insurance throughout the pandemic, paid for by my union. The arts have not fully recovered from the pandemic and continue to struggle, and their continuation is tenuous without further financial assistance. The Oregon Children's Theater busses nearly 1700 school children downtown every day school shows are offered and this is one of the most exciting field trips these students take, and raises the future arts patrons that are crucial for a vibrant creative urban core.